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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/063,863	05/20/2002	Srinivas Aluri	124566-1(GEMS:0194)SWA	6160
68174 7590 06/08/2010 GE HEALTHCARE c/o FLETCHER YODER, PC P.O. BOX 692289 HOUSTON, TX 77269-2289				
EXAMINER				
ROY, BAISAKHI				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3737				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/063,863

Applicant(s)

ALURI ET AL.

Examiner

BAISAKHI ROY

Art Unit

3737

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 February 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-22, 24-63 and 65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22, 24-63 and 65 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB06)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ ~~Notice of Informal Patent Application~~
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, with respect to claims 1-9 and 11-21 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims has been withdrawn.
2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 22, 24-63 and 65 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With respect to applicant's arguments regarding "extraction of the data formed by the medical diagnostic components" and not "extraction of data from the medical diagnostic components", Foo et al. teach exchanging data between the diagnostic components including distributing and extracting data by the diagnostic components. This is evidenced in the reference, with the Ultrasound system 1018 coupled to a communications module for transmitting service request, messages, and data between ultrasound system and service facility (col. 9 lines 6-9). Therefore data may be extracted from the ultrasound system but is definitely also extracted by the Ultrasound system from the service facility. Data is exchanged (therefore extracted by the diagnostic component) between the diagnostic systems, field service units, and remote service facility (col. 9 lines 52-54). Foo et al. clearly teach transmitting and receiving data between diagnostic systems and the service facility (col. 10 lines 27-30). Therefore the diagnostic components clearly extract data from the service facility.
3. Foo disclose distributing configuration data for multiple components to a particular component (as evidenced by data being sent to the diagnostic systems by the service facility in a network of multi-component configuration system or service system

1010), that particular component extracting one or more portions of the configuration data specific to the particular component (as evidenced by data extracted from service facility by the specific diagnostic system) and processing the extracted portion data (as evidenced by processing system 1084).

4. Therefore the overall system includes a multi-component configuration system 1010 which includes a plurality of medical diagnostic components (MRI, CT, Ultrasound) and data is distributed to each diagnostic component or data is extracted from a service facility 1022 by the individual diagnostic components, where the data is specific to each diagnostic component and is further processed by the specific diagnostic component. The service facility 1022 provides data to the diagnostic component based on requests specific to the diagnostic component and processing requests at each diagnostic component (col. 10 lines 7-11).

5. The claim language is broad and therefore, the previous rejection is maintained with respect to these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claims 1-9 and 11-21 are allowed. In view of the amendments made to the claims, the previous rejection is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 22, 24-63 and 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Foo et al. (6198283). Foo et al. disclose a method of configuring distributed components of a medical diagnostic system, a computer software, and a medical diagnostic system or service system 1010 comprising a plurality of medical diagnostic components such as MRI 1014, CT 1016, and Ultrasound 1018 communicatively coupled via communications circuitry or communications module 1032 linked to MRI system, communications module 1048 linked to CT system, and communications module 1062 linked to Ultrasound system (fig. 7, col. 8 lines 18-25 lines 52-53 lines 65-67, col. 9 lines 6-9). The diagnostic systems are coupled to a management station 1070 or the dynamic configuration system for configuring the plurality of medical diagnostic components and the management station may be linked directly to controllers for the various diagnostic systems (col. 9 lines 18-28). The system provides way to exchange data and service requests between the diagnostic components making up facility 1020 and a service facility 1022. Therefore data is distributed to the facility 1020 (comprising the diagnostic components) from service facility 1022 and data is extracted from the facility 1020 (comprising the diagnostic components) by service facility 1022 (col. 9 lines 28-32 lines 52-54 lines 62-64). The system then includes a configuration data processor or a service center processing system 1084 which manages the receipt, handling, and transmission of service data to and from the service facility (col. 9 lines 64-col. 10 line 16). The service system allows the exchange of data between the multiple diagnostic components and the service

facility and thereby enabling data to be broadcast or transmitted to the diagnostic components and data to be retrieved or extracted from the diagnostic components. Therefore the medical diagnostic components can receive data distributed to the components and process data at each component. The communication modules, workstation 1072, and field service units 1024 may be linked to service facility 1022 via a remote access network 1080 (fig. 7).

3. The service system is involved in distributing or broadcasting configuration data to the medical imaging components (col. 10 lines 48-65). The medical imaging components represent different imaging modalities and different operating architectures (fig. 7). The data is extracted or assembled and distributed during the computing time of the medical diagnostic system and therefore the system is time sensitive and may be time-expiring (col. 11 lines 35). Each stage of the configuration system requires different requirements or component behavioral characteristics corresponding to the specific modality and dividing the data into distinct configuration groups or modality-specific subcomponents 1122 (col. 11 lines 43-53). Therefore the system includes component-specific application separator or the modality interface tools 1118 specific for each modality (col. 11 lines 37-47). The system comprises a user interface (col. 10 lines 30-38). The system includes a script interpreter and script generation system for the configuration data (col. 9 lines 52-61). With respect to monitoring for triggers or triggering means associated with each distinct configuration group, the service system includes an automated service unit 1136 which may be included in the service facility for automatically responding to service requests or triggers (col. 12 lines 42-54). The

system monitors changes in specific diagnostic components or changes in the overall system or global changes spanning exchange of data between different service facilities, workstations, and processing systems (col. 10 lines 7-17). The configuration system includes modification means or modality controller 1120 which leads to modifications or updates being made to the diagnostic system (col. 13 lines 36-41).

4. The system includes a software server 1154 coupled to the storage service database 1156 for containing transmittable software packages directly to the medical diagnostic components (col. 13 lines 11-14). Therefore the medical diagnostic system includes a plurality of medical diagnostic components comprising MR, CT, Ultrasound diagnostic components. There is exchange of data between the components and a service facility with data being distributed from the MR component, data being extracted and processed by the CT component and Ultrasound component. As indicated on figure 7, the network 1080 allows data to be transmitted from the MR component to the CT and Ultrasound component and the CT component can extract data from the overall configuration service system (figures 7-10).

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BAISAKHI ROY whose telephone number is (571)272-7139. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30 a.m. - 4p.m.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on 571-272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BRIAN CASLER/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3737

BR

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/B. R./

Examiner, Art Unit 3737